(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
12 May 2005 (12.05.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/042488 A1

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: C07D 213/80, 213/82, 213/56, 213/55, 401/12, 213/59, 401/06, 413/06, C07F 9/40, C07D 213/71, 213/75, 409/12, 405/12, 213/12, 413/12

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/JP2004/016457

(22) International Filing Date: 29 October 2004 (29.10.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

2003-373776	31 October 2003 (31.10.2003)	JP
2004-030491	6 February 2004 (06.02.2004)	JP
2004-165977	3 June 2004 (03.06.2004)	JP

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(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

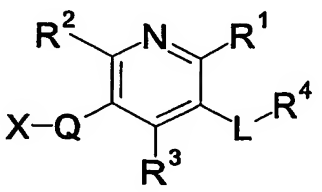
(84) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *with international search report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 2005/042488 A1

(54) Title: PYRIDINE COMPOUNDS AS INHIBITORS OF DIPEPTIDYL PEPTIDASE IV



(I)

(57) Abstract: A compound represented by the formula wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted hydroxy group; R^3 is an optionally substituted aromatic group; R^4 is an optionally substituted amino group; L is a divalent chain hydrocarbon group; Q is a bond or a divalent chain hydrocarbon group; and X is a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an acyl group, a substituted hydroxy group, an optionally substituted thiol group, an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted cyclic group; provided that when X is an ethoxycarbonyl group, then Q is a divalent chain hydrocarbon group. The compound has a peptidase inhibitory action, is useful as an agent for the prophylaxis or treatment of diabetes and the like, and is superior in efficacy, duration of action, specificity, lower toxicity and the like.